

SUBCHAPTER 2.3

CULTURAL RESOURCES

2.3 Cultural Resources

The Cultural Resource Survey and Rock Feature Test Program for Sugarbush Residential Project was prepared by Kyle Consulting. This report is included as Appendix E of the EIR, with confidential records and maps on file at DPLU, and deposited with the South Coastal Information Center (SCIC). The results of the analyses are summarized below.

2.3.1 Existing Conditions

The presence and significance of existing cultural resources associated with the Proposed Project were determined based on a review of institutional records, reports and historic maps of the Project area and immediate vicinity. In addition, field surveys of the Project site and off-site Cleveland Trail alignment, along with testing of a rock feature, were conducted, as described below. Improvements to off-site intersections proposed as traffic mitigation would occur entirely within previously disturbed areas; therefore, these areas were not surveyed. The evaluation of cultural resources is in conformance with the County RPO, Sections 21083.2 and 21084.1 of the Public Resources Code, and the State CEQA Guidelines. Statutory requirements of the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15064.5) were followed in evaluating the significance of cultural resources.

2.3.1.1 Records Search

Records searches were conducted at the SCIC and the San Diego Museum of Man. The literature review and record search identified one archaeological survey previously completed within a portion of the current Project area (PRC Toups Corporation 1979). No cultural resources were identified during that survey.

Studies within a one-mile radius of the parcel included: Fink (1973), Michael Brandman Associates, Inc. (1983), Wade and Hector (1988), Kyle and Gallegos (1989) and ERC, Inc. (1990). Cultural resources identified during those surveys include one prehistoric bedrock milling site (CA-SDI-662 recorded by Wallace [n.d.]), and two historic locations (SDM-W-4039 and SDM-W-4040, recorded by Kyle and Gallegos [1989]) during a survey of the San Marcos Highlands Project. SDM-W-4039 was described as a structure shown on a 1901 topographic map and SDM-W-4040 was a rock-lined well located in a grove of eucalyptus trees.

The County requested information regarding sacred lands in the Project area from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and local Tribal representatives. No sacred lands were identified in response to these requests.

2.3.1.2 Historic Research

Historic research of the Project site/property was completed in April 2009 by Susan D. Walter, Walter Enterprises. Research was conducted at the San Diego Historical Society, San Diego State University Library, San Marcos Historical Museum and the National City Public Library Local History Room. Census work was done online by computer at ancestry.com. Additionally, the Vista Historical Society was contacted by telephone with negative results.

The following documents were consulted: *San Diego Union Tribune* Microfiche and Microfilm; Plat Maps for the years 1892, 1895 and 1913; United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps—Escondido Quadrangle 1901 (surveyed 1891 and 1898), 1942, 1948; San Diego County Directories for years 1886-1887, 1897, 1899-1900, 1901, 1905-1916, 1920; Census for 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930; school records for Buena, Richland, and San Marcos Schools 1891-1910; and Oral Histories of San

Marcos, the San Diego Historical Society Biographical Files, and *Vignettes of San Marcos History* (no author), available from the San Marcos Historical Society.

The maps consulted did not identify any buildings on the subject property from 1891 to the present. Neither of the individuals (J.S. Hill and J.W. Isbell) clearly identified as owners of the property from Plat Maps were significant in the history of the area. (Not all of the owners were successfully identified, either because the names on the Plat Maps were illegible or because information could not be obtained regarding some seemingly legible [e.g., S.G. Hoff].)

Although some families were identified as being in the area (for instance, the Itzaina, Boyle and Thomas families were listed on school records), they could not be associated with the subject property. *Vignettes of San Marcos History* identifies Thomas (J.) Isbell as having the original San Marcos school built on his property "...¼ mile S.W. of what is now Pechstein Dam in the Buena District." This may be the same property as that listed above as owned by John W. Isbell; however, no structures were shown on any of the maps consulted. There are currently a number of old olive trees present on the property. Historic research did not identify who might have planted the trees and did not show that anyone had settled on the property.

2.3.1.3 Resource Surveys

A field survey of the Project site was completed by Delman James and Stephen Briggs on May 19, 29 and 30, 2003. The level areas of the Project site were intensively surveyed using 10 to 12 meter transects between surveyors. Ground visibility in these areas was good. The steep (i.e., between 20 to 25 degree) slopes were not surveyed due to danger to surveyors, lack of ground visibility due to dense native vegetation, and low potential for cultural resources. No cultural resources were identified during this field survey.

The Cleveland Trail emergency access corridor, located east of Buena Creek Road and extending to the western Sugarbush property boundary, was surveyed for cultural resources by Delman James and Stephen Briggs on March 26, 2009. Native American monitor P.J. Stoneburner of the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians was present. The survey corridor was approximately 50 feet in width. No cultural material was identified.

2.3.1.4 Rock Feature Test Program

The County was contacted in 2009 by a neighbor of the property who reported the presence of a rock structure on the site.

On March 26, 2009, the rock feature was tested by Steven Briggs and Delman James for Kyle Consulting. Native American monitor P.J. Stoneburner of the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians was present. Vegetation had previously been hand-cleared to a distance of approximately five feet around the feature. The rock cobbles are located inside a graded dirt road that had been obscured by vegetation. Six shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated—five were located outside the feature, and one inside the feature. No cultural material was recovered from the STPs. The feature appears to be modern and the result of repeated pushing and piling of rocks, probably with some mechanical method.

2.3.2 Analysis of Project Effects and Determination as to Significance

2.3.2.1 Cultural Resources

Guidelines for Determining Significance

Impacts to historical resources would be significant if the project would:

1. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines.
2. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines.
3. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.
4. Be inconsistent with the County RPO relative to prehistoric and historic sites.

Guidelines No. 1 through 4 are based on the County's Guidelines for Determining Significance – Cultural Resources – Archaeological and Historic Resources (December 5, 2007).

Analysis

As described in Section 3.1.3.1, no cultural resources were identified within the Project area as a result of the literature review, record search, historic research, field surveys of the Project area and the Cleveland Trail emergency corridor, or testing of the rock feature. Although a thorough investigation failed to reveal the presence of any potential archaeological resources, there is the potential that brushing and initial grading activities associated with construction of the Proposed Project could result in the discovery of previously unrecorded, potentially significant, archaeological resources. Impacts to such archaeological resources would be **significant. (Impact CR-1a)**

No human remains were discovered during the site survey. Although unlikely, human remains may be unearthed during grading activities, which would be a **significant impact. (Impact CR-1b)**

2.3.3 Cumulative Impact Analysis

According to CEQA, the importance of cultural resources comes from the research value and the information that they contain. Therefore the issue that must be explored in a cumulative analysis is the cumulative loss of that information. Because cultural resources are non-renewable in nature, it is critical that information obtained through excavation is appropriately retained and utilized. For sites considered less than significant, the information is preserved through recordation, test excavations and preservation of artifacts. Significant sites that are placed in protected open space easements avoid direct impacts to these cultural resources as well as preservation of their potential research data. Significant sites that are not placed within open space easements and directly impacted by projects preserve the information through recordation, test excavations and data recovery programs that would be presented in reports and filed with the County and SCIC. The artifact collections from any potentially significant site would be curated at a federally approved curation facility such as the San Diego Archaeological Center and would be available to researchers for further study.

No cultural resources were located on the Project site, and none is expected to occur. Known impacts, therefore, would not result in any contribution to regional impacts to cultural resources. A conservative assessment, however, has resulted in identification of potential impacts to currently unknown subsurface

deposits or features. The Proposed Project's potentially significant impacts to cultural resources would be reduced below a level of significance by archaeological monitoring by a County-approved archaeologist and a monitor representing the local Luiseño tribes during grading of both on- and off-site grading activities, and appropriate treatment (permanent preservation or excavation) of the resources in accordance with M-CR-1. Future development within the cumulative study area would be subject to similar analysis and mitigation requirements pursuant to CEQA and RPO. Thus, all archaeological impacts associated with the related cumulative projects are expected to be less than significant and/or fully mitigated.

Based on the compliance of the Proposed Project and related projects within the cultural resources cumulative study area with CEQA and RPO, and implementation of the Project monitoring measures presented in Section 2.3.5, the Proposed Project would not result in a significant contribution to cumulative impacts for the issue of cultural resources and impacts would be **less than significant**.

2.3.4 Significance of Impacts Prior to Mitigation

The following potential significant impacts could occur with Project implementation:

Impact CR-1a On-site brushing and initial grading activities associated with construction of the Proposed Project could result in the discovery of previously unrecorded, potentially significant, archaeological resources. Such impacts to uncovered cultural resources on site could be significant.

Impact CR-1b A significant impact would occur if human remains are unearthed during grading activities.

2.3.5 Mitigation

The following mitigation measure would reduce potentially significant cultural resource impacts to less than significant levels:

M-CR-1 Direct impacts to buried, previously unrecorded cultural resources will be mitigated through execution of a grading monitoring and potential subsequent data recovery program. Prior to approval of grading or improvement plans, the Project Applicant shall implement a grading monitoring and data recovery program to the satisfaction of the Director of DPLU. The program will include monitoring by a County-certified archaeologist/historian and Native American monitor; documenting identified isolates and clearly non-significant deposits; halting/diverting grading activities and contacting the County in the event that potentially significant cultural resources are discovered; preparing a Research Design and Data Recovery Program for any significant cultural resources; notifying the County Coroner and (if applicable) NAHC if any human remains or grave goods are discovered; recording, processing and curating any discovered cultural resources; and reporting the results of the monitoring program to the County.

Refer to M-CR-1 in Chapter 7.0 for the complete mitigation measure.

2.3.6 Conclusion

The Proposed Project may have significant impacts if unknown prehistoric or historical artifact deposits are uncovered or unearthed during brushing and initial grading activities (Impact CR-1a). Mitigation would reduce impacts to these potential resources to below a level of significance, because data recovery would allow important information to be obtained prior to removal. The proposed Mitigation Measure M-CR-1

would ensure that all information contained in the archaeological record, which is important in understanding prehistory, is preserved. The mitigation would ensure that the archaeological monitor has the authority to halt or divert grading activities in the area of any discoveries.

Unearthing of human remains during grading activities would result in a significant impact (Impact CR-1b). In this event, the County Coroner and/or the Native American Heritage Commission would be contacted as required to ensure that the proper steps are taken. Mitigation Measure M-CR-1 would reduce impacts to human remains to below a level of significance, because, based on assessed significance, the site would be avoided or recovery would be allowed and not destroyed during Project grading. The proposed mitigation would ensure that any discovered human remains would be preserved for the County Coroner and/or the Native American Heritage Commission and the associated tribe.

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